अनियमित क्षेत्र के अंतर्गत आता है इसलिए इसके मूल्य को मॉनिटर नहीं किया जा रहा है।

Decline in the use of Fertilizers

831. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARI: Will the Ministe of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether use of fertilizer has declined, if so, the total consumption during the years 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and so far in 1996;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to increase the use of fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) The total consumption of fertilizer nutrients during the years 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and the estimated consumption during Kharif 1996 (April-September, 1996) is given below:

Year	(Lakh tonnes N+P+K)
1993-94	123.66
1994-95	135.64
1995-96	138.77
Kharif, 1996 (Estt)	73.39

(c) The following steps are being taken to increase the use of fertilizers:

(i) Concession of Rs. 3000 per tonne on indigenous Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Rs. 1500 per tonne each of Muriate of Potash and imported Di-Ammonium Phosphate, proportionate per tonne concession on indigenous complexes and Rs. 500 per tonne on Single Super Phosphate (SSP) is being given with effect from 6.7.1996;

(ii) sale of fertilizers to farmers in small bags;

(iii) free foil testing service to farmers;

(iv) a scheme on balanced use of fertilizers is being implemented which is expected to help in generating demand and promoting balanced use of fertilizers; and

(v) a scheme on Bio-fertilizer production and promotion is being implemented. This is expected to help in supply and use of organic forms of plant nutrients.

Rail freight concession for North-East region

832. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 6% freight concession on traffic to North-East region is granted for goods traffic booked to and from stations located in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) whether Manipur is not included in this freight concession; and

(c) who will reimburse the loss suffered by the railways as a result of freight concession?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Manipur is also included in the Scheme of 6% freight concession.

(c) the proposal to refer the issue to the Railway Convention Committee is under consideration of the Ministry of Railways.

Commissioning of Konkan railway line

833. SHRI M.A. BABY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the date of commissioning of the Konkan railway line for passenger traffic;

(b) the extent of delay considering the original target and the reasons for the same; and

(c) the modus-operandi for the running of trains and/or who would be the final authority for the service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Passenger services on the Konkan Railway have already commenced upto Ratnagiri from Mumbai side and upto Kundapura from Mangalore side. However, through passenger services are likely to be started by April 1997.

(b) Commissioning of the project has been delayed by 18 months due to stoppage of work in Goa route owing to public agitation and unforseen geological problems in soft soil tunnels.

(c) The train services would be opearted by the Konkan Railway Corpn. Ltd.